

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASUNCI 02013 191700Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3061

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SHUM, PA
SUBJECT: INDEPENDENCE DAY: THE ARCHBISHOP SPEAKS UP AGAIN

REF: AUSNCION 1200

1. ARCHBISHOP ISMAEL ROLON DELIVERED AN INDEPENDENCE DAY SERMON MAY 15 TO A CONGREGATION WHICH INCLUDED PRESIDENT STROESSNER AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY OFFICERS. HE ISSUED A CALL FOR NATIONAL UNITY BASED ON A RETURN TO MORAL VALUES AND CONTINUED EFFORTS TO BUILD A NATION OF FREE MEN WHO CAN EXPECT TO LIVE WITH PEACE, LIBERTY AND JUSTICE. MAINTAINING THE NON-CONFRONTATIONAL STANCE ADOPTED IN HIS EASTER MESSAG, (REFTEL) THE ARCHBISHOP NONETHELESS CRITICIZED THE PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS. HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE COULD BE NO INTERNAL PEACE UNTIL:
(A) PUBLIC MORALITY IS GUARDED AND STRENGTHENED BY LEGAL SAFEGUARDS; (B) POLITICAL OPPORTUNISM IS FIRMLY REJECTED; AND
(C) JUSTICE IS ADMINISTERED BY COMPETENT PERSONS.

2. IN THE AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS, THE ARCHBISHOP TOOK A MORE POSITIVE STATNCE PREDICTING BETTER DAYS AHEAD. HE BASED HIS PREDICTION ON:
(1) THE CONTINUING RETURN OF EMBOSCADA DETAINEES TO THEIR FAMILIES, WHICH HE HOPED WOULD CONTINUE; AND (2) THE PARTIAL LIFTING OF THE STATE OF SIEGE, WHICH HE HOPED WOULD BECOME TOTAL.
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HE FOLLOWED THIS WITH CONGRATULATIONS ON THE RECENT OPENING OF A SATELLITE GROUND RECEIVING STATION WHICH HE SAID WOULD OPEN A NEW WINDOW TO THE WORLD.

3. COMMENT: THE ARCHBISHOP'S SPEECH, ACCORDING TO CHURCH SOURCES, REFLECTS THE CHURCH'S ASSESSMENT THAT THE PROBLEM OF VIOLATIONS OF INDIVIDUAL HUMAN RIGHTS, EG., TORTURE,

ARBITRARY AND INDEFINITE IMPRISONMENT, PERSONS WHO DESAPPEAR,
HAS BEEN REDUCED TO THE POINT WHERE, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME
BEING, THE CHURCH DOES NOT NEED TO SPECIFICALLY ADDRESS IT IN
PUBLIC. INSTEAD, MOST OF THE SPEECH CONCENTRATED ON THE
MORE GENERAL NEED FOR SOCIAL AND MORAL UPLIFT.
WHITE

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Message Attributes

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